

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Yana Jayampathy and I am a student at Yale University.

I stand in support of HB 6616 and the effort to expand access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status and age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving, and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage. Expanding access to HUSKY is an important step towards this future.

The United States per capita health care spending is above the average of peer countries, and it fares worse on many health outcomes, including overall life expectancy. This paradox can only be addressed by expanding access to primary care for everyone. No one should have to forego needed medical treatments, or skip on a preventative care visit, because of lack of insurance. Health care is a human right.

I was raised by my mother, an immigrant from Sri Lanka, and have witnessed firsthand the struggle to access affordable healthcare. Pay-what-you-can clinics and other band aid solutions defined much of my experience with healthcare growing up. Having to experience a lack of access to basic healthcare is an incredibly difficult thing that no one should have to contend with. I support expanding HUSKY to all regardless of age and immigration status, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Yana Jayampathy